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# Italy Revisited: The Encyclopedia

*Medieval Italy: An Encyclopedia* (2v.). Edited by Christopher Kleinhenz et al. (New York, Routledge, 2004) 2,176 pp. $295.00

Every subject under the sun has, or shortly will have, an encyclopedia, dictionary, or work of reference dedicated to fixing, or ossifying, the state of knowledge in the field. For five centuries, the age of print has witnessed the ebb and flow of commercial endeavors to compile useful facts for sale. The last quarter-century, the period in which the internet began to overlap with older technologies, has witnessed what may be the last flurry or gasp of this sort of enterprise. Online versions of reference works will never die or be out of date so long as their owners devise strategies to provide users with frequent updates available at the press of a key. The laudable reference work under review began to fall out of date from the moment of its printing and cannot be fixed, except by an expensive supplement some decades hence; an electronic version could be tinkered with as frequently as an anti-virus program. Booksellers may be the businesses least likely to make the transition to modern web-based and searchable works of reference; this encyclopedia manages an index, a tool dating back to the pre-print era.

A review of an encyclopedia in a scholarly journal may have a hard time reaching the right audience—those who might buy it. The 192 contributors—alas, not all of whom are still living—might comprise the most obvious market, but they are probably more likely to recommend this work to their reference librarians rather than to pay its steep price themselves. Routledge casts the net of potential readers to include "college-bound high school students through graduate level and specialist researchers." Because high-school and city public libraries far outnumber research ones, the best audience for a review would be the beleaguered

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reference and acquisition librarians in those school systems and cities that still have money to buy books. One cannot envy the daily deluge of marketing materials for encyclopedias and dictionaries that such people must receive. An informal and unscientific survey suggests that only the largest cities and upscale high schools can afford to purchase even a selection of what the market provides. High-school library catalogs remain almost impossible to search remotely; their acquisitions may result in considerable overlaps of holdings within regions or districts. Hence, these libraries are actually the biggest part of the potential market. But the librarians who make the purchasing decisions are much more likely to read *Booklist* than journals like this one for guidance on what to acquire. Whether the scholars and contributors who would not hesitate to recommend this encyclopedia to a college or university library would also suggest that the local high school or public library buy it is an interesting question. Probably not. From an interdisciplinary perspective, the first question to ask in some respects is about the economics of the endeavor, an especially interesting one when the editors and contributors are paid little or nothing.[1] Because the market for these works depends on some of the most hard-pressed sectors of the educational system, it is fair to wonder what they will get for their money.

Since *Italy* was in this period a geographical expression and not the modern country, the editors had to define the scope of their topic. The map tells the standard story, but it has a few puzzling inconsistencies and omissions. Sardinia does not appear on it, though it did receive a short entry. Corsica is not on the map either, but its entry is shorter than Cortona's. Elba is on the map, but has no entry. Nor do other interesting places like Capri or the Lipari islands receive any notice. It is best, however, to be grateful for what we have, and this encyclopedia ranges from antiquity to the dawn of modern times, offering 970 "entries," a number of them from the same contributors. Indeed, Katherine Fischer Drew

1 More than a decade ago, George Gorse and I agreed to write an article on Genoa for a reference work commissioned by Garland Publishing. Believing the project to have been abandoned, some time ago we posted our contribution on the web, where it has freely served high-school students in writing papers. Some of these people have written us with questions, and responding to them has been a pleasure. When Routledge took over the project and rescued it from commercial oblivion, unknown to us our article was printed. After I agreed to review this encyclopedia and received a copy, I looked up the article on Genoa and was amazed to see that George and I had written it. I consider myself a disinterested reviewer.

alone is responsible for what must be dozens of brief and excellent notices of every Lombard ruler and facet of Lombard law and culture. Faced with such riches, it is useful to begin a review with the unexpected finds, those articles that readers might not plan to look for in this encyclopedia—the creative and fresh ones. The first common theme is material culture.

In Andreas Petzold's essay on bronze doors, lovely surviving medieval Romanesque examples from Amalfi, Verona, and Ravello, among others, testify to a fruitful cultural exchange between the finest Byzantine metal workers and the people who designed and made such doors in Italy. These doors strike any viewer as amazing technical and artistic accomplishments, and it is a treat to find an entry on them. Medieval *cassoni* were wooden carved boxes, usually in pairs, that served as wedding chests for the increasingly lavish gifts and counter-gifts that accompanied marriages between wealthy Italian families. Paul F. Watson's essay evokes the social importance of these boxes, which is a feat since so few of the early ones have survived. This article is a short example of the best interdisciplinary successes in the volume, in this case at the intersection of art and social history.

Flags and banners are neglected subjects, and Christoph F. Weber's article brings to life the immense symbolic value of these items to states, cities, and even neighborhoods. The same author's piece on heraldry explains clearly some of the technical points needed to read a banner. The entry on geography and cartography by the late David Woodward demonstrates well how the strategy of asking the best authority on a subject to write on it can pay off. Woodward had to balance the Italian contributions to these areas, as major as they were, against the facts that map making and geographical knowledge were not Italian monopolies during this period. This piece shows how an unexpected entry in an encyclopedia devoted to Italy can succeed in opening up to scholars and students a wider world of influences. The same issues and insights emerge in Ronald Zupko's article on weights and measures. These necessary means of quantifying size existed everywhere, but it is important to know how many different such systems existed in Italy, and how contemporary efforts to integrate these systems helped to foster commercial success in the trading states.

Another class of unexpected entries takes up wider artistic themes. Mosaics receive from Thomas Dale a long essay that ex-

plains the classical inheritance and the ways that Italian masters enhanced the craft during the Middle Ages. Focusing on the main centers of Rome, Ravenna, Norman Sicily, Venice, and Florence, Dale shows how mosaic programs served the iconographical needs of churches, and suggests why painting eventually superseded this older style of representation. Mosaics benefit from several illustrations, but the publisher might have provided color pictures of them; the glories of mosaics are so absent from black-and-white photographs that it might have been better to have none at all.

Some non-Italian specialists may be surprised to learn that the sonnet form of poetry originated in Italy, probably in the verse of Giacomo da Lentini, a notary-poet active in the court of Frederick II in Sicily. Christopher Kleinhenz explains how this short form with its fixed varieties allowed beginner poets to experiment in a form that allowed readers the chance to compare different styles of ingenuity within the rules of composition. Kleinhenz, who also contributes a long essay on Italian lyric, has done an outstanding job on poetry in this encyclopedia. It is to be expected that the major figures like Dante and Petrarch would receive long and excellent articles. Experts like Frede Jensen provide short pieces on what appears to be every known Italian poet, Joan Levin explains comic poetry, and Gloria Allaire popular rhyme forms. Where appropriate, the text provides excellent examples of poetry and the best translations, which will be useful and, one hopes, inspiring to students and others who cannot read the original.

A few miscellaneous pieces treat themes important to Italian culture and belong in the category of unexpected gems. Numerology receives from Richard Lansing a good explanation for why the arcane science of reading symbolic meaning into numbers appealed to medieval people. Lansing analyzes in detail the specific roles that numerology played in works by Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio, and it is certainly the case that Dante especially loved numbers. James Brundage offers an incisive essay on sexuality that again in a masterful way shows how a general subject can be finetuned for an Italian context. Brundage explains how canon and civil law set the boundaries of the officially permissible in Italian culture, though actual practices often differed. The encyclopedia has no separate entry on homosexual practices, concubinage, or prostitution; Brundage folds them into his contribution.

Sabina Magliocco explicates Italian folklore as a rich genre that expressed culture through informal and oral means that are difficult for the historian to trace and, above all, to date. Folktales varied by region of Italy, and some of the themes were common throughout Europe and the rest of the world. Stories like "La Cenerentola" (Cinderella) are typical of the kind of entertainment that enjoyed widespread appeal. Magliocco also uses riddles and proverbs, games, and festivals to illustrate how folkloric ways enriched the daily lives of medieval Italians. It is wonderful to see the famous *"Indovinello veronese"* (Veronese riddle) receive an entry. Ruggiero Stefani explains first the nature of the riddle and then gently demolishes the case that it is the oldest example of vernacular written Italian. From the famous *Palio* of Siena to neighborhood fights in Perugia and Venice, distinctive local customs show a side of life usually neglected in standard works of reference.

Alongside the unexpected treasures are puzzling and needless entries that waste too much space in an encyclopedia that has many curious omissions. First, though the volumes set chronological limits at roughly 375 and 1400, many classical authors—including Plato, Cicero, Ovid, Juvenal, Livy, Lucan, Quintilian, Seneca, Virgil, and others—receive pointless notices. A few entries, notably those for Ovid and Virgil, explain the medieval legacies and influences of these classical poets, and sometimes a straightforward biographical article will mention that a particular author was revived or read in medieval Italy. All such essays have a needless illustration from the title page of an early printed edition of their subject's works, as if a classical encyclopedia had wandered into these volumes and decided to squat. Even if a more consistent effort were made to justify the inclusion of some extraneous characters, one might as well include everything from antiquity as a possible influence on medieval Italians. Consistency alone would argue for the inclusion of topics like republicanism (not included).

For the medieval period proper, a long entry on St. Augustine of Hippo says nothing about Augustinianism in the Middle Ages, let alone the later sojourn of his body in Pavia. Similarly, St. Bernard of Clairvaux has a short entry, perhaps because he figures in the *Divine Comedy,* but so do many others who do not have their own entries. More justifiable and useful are the entries on Al-Farabi, Averroes, Avicenna, and other medieval Muslim authors,

though none of these people have any actual connection to medieval Italy beyond the fact that their works had some influence on the development of scholastic thought. Nonetheless, any effort to provide useful information on these important figures is to be welcomed since they are so neglected in the standard discourse. Less defensible is an entry on Albertus Magnus, a German scholastic who never taught in Italy, with a wasteful illustration, again the title page of an early printed text. Although he was read in Italy, and was one of Thomas Aquinas' teachers, who would look for such an entry in an encyclopedia devoted to medieval Italy?

This unnecessary use of precious space becomes inexcusable in the face of topics omitted or receiving too cursory a notice. Although the cities of Italy receive excellent and extended coverage (see below), the regions of Italy do not. Hence, there is Genoa but no Liguria, Rome but no Lazio. The problem arises principally for the least-urbanized areas of Italy, because the urban slant favors the North and depreciates the South. An entry on the Mezzogiorno would have helped to explain why the North–South problem remains so durable a feature of Italian society. Also, regions like Apulia and Calabria have distinctive cultures that should have merited entries. This problem is not confined to the South; no articles appear on Savoy or Piedmont (and the one on Turin is too short), where important cultural and economic developments, among others, took place.

The privileging of the cities at the expense of the *contadi* (countrysides) is nowhere more clear than in the entry on agriculture, which, at barely two pages, is inadequate to what was, after all, by far the main employer and primary engine to the economic development of all of Italy, North and South. The regionality of Italian agriculture deserves to be stressed. Only a brief piece, the same length as the entry on Ovid, tells the tale of viticulture; wine itself, and the wine trade, have no entries. A look for the important topic of sharecropping, the distinctive *mezzadria* of medieval Italy, refers to the entry on agriculture, where it is barely mentioned. Since, for example, there is no entry on Tuscany, it is not likely to be mentioned in the long article on Florence either.

A truism in economic history holds that cities cannot be divorced from their countrysides and regions in discussions of their relative successes and failures. The commercialization of Italian agriculture through methods like the mezzadria was one way in

which the profits of banking and the cloth business could be invested in farming. Debates about the mezzadria, on the one hand, praise it as a modern way of allowing entry into farming by people who otherwise lacked the capital or land to become farmers, and, on the other, see the entire system as a gross form of exploitation in which rural people were pressed into hard labor for Italian capital. The same problem was evident in both North and South. Sicily, for example, was turned into a grain exporter for the benefit of others with harsh consequences for Sicilian peasants—for whom there is an article mainly on the early Middle Ages that also fails to address regional variations.

The phenomenon of wage and migratory labor in the countryside also merits scrutiny, as does the disappearance of rural slavery, which is treated in this work as a demand and not a supply problem. The encyclopedia might have been more effective if there had been an editorial judgment to include an entry on the olive tree, another distinctive feature of parts of the Italian countryside, and a commodity and food worth explaining.

Demography might have received more attention as well. The subject itself is not represented and the Black Death, the event most influencing population movements, receives a one-page treatment with a paragraph on social consequences but nothing on the economy, religion, or the visual arts. The plague appears in some of the city entries and naturally in Boccaccio's but a strong article covering all of Italy would seem to be in order. The lack of attention to the "Big Death" may also be part of a neglectful treatment of science in general.[2] Despite the entry on numerology, mathematics has none, and the absence of the mathematician Leonardo Fibonacci of Pisa is a pity, since he is one medieval Italian who appears in most common dictionaries. Not even numerals, or the arrival of Arabic numbers into Italy, merit discussion. An important opportunity was missed, and the good entry on banking cannot be expected to make up for it.

Richard Kay's thoughtful entry on astrology and Faye Getz's on medicine are the only ones in which science receives any sustained attention. Trotula, the famous woman physician, has a very brief entry, shorter than nearby Tristan's (!). It would have provided an opportunity to explore in more detail issues surrounding

2 See as a corrective Samuel K. Cohn, Jr., *The Black Death Transformed: Disease and Culture in Early Renaissance Europe* (New York, 2002).

the health of women, especially important since neither midwives nor wetnurses have separate entries. Nor does physiognomy, an element of the classical inheritance especially powerful in Italy, where the taste for interpreting the features of the human face is a durable cultural habit. Finally, tying together the topics of agriculture and science, the important subjects of food and diet are missing from this encyclopedia. Nor do they appear in the index. Patterns of consumption certainly affected demographic trends, and cooking and feasts were distinctive features of Italian culture that merit notice. Regionality would again be a significant variable.

Neglect of a few smaller topics also limits the usefulness of this encyclopedia. The entry on the Crusades focuses almost exclusively on the Latin East and does not pay enough attention to how participation in these enterprises affected the histories of Venice, Genoa, Pisa, and the Norman Kingdom. More important is the need to explain how summoning a crusade began to have important consequences in Italy as popes turned this military weapon against their political opponents in Italy. George Dameron's fine entry on Guelfs shows how the supporters of the papacy became a distinctive political force in some cities and regions, with its own traditions and ideology. The parallel entry on Ghibellines repeats much of the same material, and the issue naturally arises in some of the lengthier city articles. What is not so evident is that in some places Guelf and Ghibelline loyalties reflected noble or familial disputes that had little if anything to do with the broader concerns of papacy and empire. The older Italian historiographical tradition that preferred to consider some of these issues in the context of class struggles among the magnates, popolo grasso, and popolo minuto receives little attention. Magnates have no entry, and the entire discussion of the popolo is shorter than the neighboring entries for Pomposa and Pornocracy. Anyone interested in social divisions in urban society would have to pore through dozens of entries on individual cities and then try to synthesize all this material without the benefit of entries by social category that would have made everything more clear.

Aside from the centerpiece entry on Dante (seven-and-a-half pages in this work), the heart and the glory of an encyclopedia on medieval Italy rests on its entries concerning individual cities, since in North America and Italy, many scholars still reflect the

spirit of *campanilismo* (parochialism at best, antiquarian chauvinism at worst). This type of bias is especially acute for Italy in this period because there is no Italy, no national politics, diplomacy, or economy; each little state or place was a country in miniature, its own small world with expert partisans past and present. In the North, with its numerous city-states, localism has traditionally dominated the ways people see premodern Italy, whereas for the Mezzogiorno, some type of monarchy usually prevailed, almost always in the hands of outsiders. In the middle of Italy, the papacy exercised increasing authority over an interesting mix of small cities and rural areas.

The treatment of the southern cities is mixed and in some revealing ways becomes more cursory the farther South that it ventures. The late Barbara Kreutz and Carola Small's excellent five-page article on Naples treats the city as a capital and notes how the tragic loss of sources has limited the ways in which scholars can explore the internal dynamics of urban society there. In half this space, Armand Citarella does a masterful job of explaining the generally neglected importance of Amalfi during the early Middle Ages, suggesting why this precocious trading and naval center did not develop to rival the maritime powers of the North. Bari merits an entry about the same length, again because of its early role as a place where Byzantines and Normans struggled for control of the South. It is a pity that Taranto has no entry, given that the heel of Italy receives so little attention. Palermo merits three pages, partly diminished by three illustrations, though this neglect is partly offset by the excellent three-page entry on Sicily by David Abulafia. However, the cosmopolitan, uniquely multicultural atmosphere of urban life that lasted for a time in Palermo before the destruction of the Muslim community and the restrictions placed on the Jews deserves more specific analysis. Messina, the only other city on the island to receive separate notice, rates barely a page. These allotments reflect editorial judgments that must be set aside the articles on the northern cities.

Many readers may turn first to the entry on Florence as a touchstone for assaying the quality of the encyclopedia. This city merits thirteen-and-one-half pages, including five illustrations, and a four-page bibliography that is by itself longer than the entry on Palermo. Arguably, this proportion represents various realities—mainly scholarly effort—and is justified by the many accom-

plishments of medieval Florentines in so many areas of life ranging from banking to poetry and education, to name a few of the themes that Dameron explores. At the end of the article, the editors refer curious readers to fifty additional entries on various themes where Florence or Florentines appear. Since this encyclopedia stops short of the Medici, they are absent, but there are, as a taste of the scale and scope of this enterprise, referrals to entries on the Adimari, Albizzi, Cavalcanti, Donati, Peruzzi (but no Bardi), Portinari, Ubaldini, and Uberti families. The general readers are entitled to some sense of perspective. The Colonna, Crescentii, Frangipani, Pierleoni, and Orsini families of Rome receive entries for their significance in papal dynasties. No family from Naples or Palermo has an article, and even from Venice only the Dandolo and Tiepolo and from Genoa only the Doria and Embriaco rate one. The families are one way to measure the relative weight given to the cities and their entries; there are others.

An oddly long entry on Arezzo suggests that no place in Tuscany will escape notice, and this is in some respects a good thing. Siena receives from Edward English an excellent eight-page essay that achieves the best sort of interdisciplinary balance between economic, political, and artistic perspectives. Siena is in many ways a useful antidote to the usual fixation on Florence. Pisa benefits from a similarly long article by Elizabeth Rothrauff that also covers the city's history into the fourteenth century. Comparing the analytical framework for these two cities is instructive. English can point to the Big Death and factional politics as causes for the economic decline that Siena experienced. Rothrauff describes the puzzling way in which this vibrant thirteenth-century power became by the late fourteenth-century an impoverished backwater, but it is not so clear what caused its problems. Pisa's began well before the plague. A general entry on malaria might have been useful. Christine Meek has been allotted about half this space to cover Lucca, which she does expertly by weaving together in a seamless narrative the city's cultural and political history. The puzzle about Lucca and its small contado is how the Lucchese escaped for so long into the early modern period being dominated by their more powerful neighbors. Meek might have offered more analysis of this problem. A further clue to the weight that Tuscany exerts on the encyclopedia is in the article on San Gimignano; with four pages and two illustrations, it comes in

longer than all of Sicily. With all due respect to this charming little place so unchanged since the plague, it is hard to figure out what if anything actually happened there. Even little Certaldo (but not, for example, Monte Gargano) merits a short entry, possibly because it was Boccaccio's birthplace. This encyclopedia's Tuscanocentric or Florentinocentric bias is typical of works devoted to Italy. Thus do the received truths of canonical thinking pass from one generation to the next.

To the north and east of Tuscany the city entries are a mixed bag in terms of length and quality. In roughly four-and-a-half pages, Carol Lansing does a masterful job of elucidating the interesting social and economic life in the university town of Bologna. The exceptional accomplishments of this piece are its rare ability to address forthrightly the issues between the magnates and popolo, and to discuss religious life in terms of Franciscans, Cathars, and the activities of the inquisitors. A longer essay on Bergamo concludes with a useful physical tour of the city and its architectural masterpieces, but it is not clear why this city merits so much attention. Barbara Sella's twelve-page article on Milan, including an immense bibliography, is one of the great strengths of this encyclopedia. Milan, as an old Roman capital, mattered right from the beginning of the Middle Ages to the end when it became the capital of the Visconti duchy. It was always the largest nonport city in northern Italy, and Sella does a fine job of integrating its economic history into the wider one of Lombardy, its important region. Sella makes clear that Milan's durable importance demands that the city receive as much attention as the usual suspects. A five-page entry on Ravenna by John Barker emphasizes the city's early medieval significance but does not neglect its subsequent history. Maureen Miller has, like only a minority of the contributors, taken the story of Verona late into the fifteenth century, doing special justice to the city's wonderful architectural treats, including San Zeno. In eight pages, Louise Buenger Robbert takes the history of Venice down to 1300 but is cursory after that date. This entry is good on trade and Venice's exotic colonial empire, buttressed by a separate article on Venetian art by Debra Pincus that is also too brief on later developments.

The different ways in which all of these articles end point to the perennial question of when the Middle Ages concluded in Italy, and when something that might be called the Renaissance

began. Plainly, the contributors were largely left to make their own judgments. Some of the city essays attempt to cover all of urban life, whereas others focus on a dominant theme. For example, in writing about Rome, Andreas Rehberg concentrates on the city's role as the papal capital and its factional struggles, and art receives less space than in the essays on Florence or Genoa. Reading the city entries by themselves presents a puzzling vision of Italy, too often divorced from the countryside to do justice to the major economic and political themes.

One of the major interdisciplinary strengths of this encyclopedia merits notice. For a variety of complex reasons—ranging from the classical inheritance to the growing international importance of the law school in Bologna to the activities of the papacy—Italy witnessed many major developments in civil and canon law. Legal history is often slighted in general reference works, but not in this one. Drew offers a fine essay on Lombard law that explains how this Germanic tribal code worked in tandem with older Roman laws and jurisprudence in early medieval Italy. Pavia was a center of Lombard legal teaching, and the code remained important as one way to regulate relations between Lombards and the subject Roman population.

James Brundage explains how Roman law, one of the intellectual triumphs of classical civilization, remained a vibrant force in medieval Italy, especially after jurists rediscovered the final classics of Roman law, the Code and Digest of Justinian. The single surviving copy of the Digest in Italy, along with Justinian's collection of past laws and the primer for students known as the Institutes, came under close study by generations of Italian jurists and commentators after 1000. The teaching of Roman civil law became a tradition in Bologna, where training in the Digest taught lawyers the difficult subject of legal reasoning. An increasing reliance on notarial contracts after about 1050 made the lessons and benefits of the civil law more widely known among the lords and merchants who needed to create legally binding documents according to the venerable rules of a law code recognized everywhere. Local cities often adopted rules specific to local situations, but all law was expected to conform to accepted principals inherited from the Romans. As Drew and Brundage make clear, the economic and political accomplishments of Italian societies rested squarely on the benefits of a strong legal tradition that privileged

the impartiality of judges and justice. All of the major teachers of Roman law from Irnerius to Azo and Accursius receive individual entries. Inexplicably, the Glossa Ordinaria of Roman law has two long consecutive entries, one for civil law and the other for Roman law, which are the same subject.

Canon law, the collection of papal rules or canons of the Church, was the other great system of law that became centered in Italy. Since these laws were the universally applicable teachings of the Church, they were taught and collected in a number of law schools in Europe, but the greatest collections of canons or laws were made in Italy by Gratian and the great lawyer-popes like Gregory IX, Innocent IV, and John XXII. Again, Brundage masterfully places these Italian developments in a wider European context without losing sight of the distinctive Italian contributions. Canon law was also important in Bologna, and rules about church courts and procedures taught and disputed there were applicable across Western Christendom. Brundage shows that the legacies of canon law endured far beyond the end of medieval Italy, and remain one of the most significant legacies of this civilization. Since Brundage wrote the main essays on civil and canon law, they complement each other well in demonstrating how the law functioned both as an academic discipline and as a tool for wielding power.

Laura Ikins Stern has supplied an entirely fresh and long article on the criminal law that does full justice to the variety of criminal procedures in Italy. Local concerns and traditions were extremely important in criminal law. In the South, Byzantine and even Muslim procedures were relevant, as were Lombard practices in various parts of the peninsula. As a unit, the excellent entries on the law create a compelling balance between the universal and the local (in the case of canon and some criminal procedures), the old (the common Roman legal tradition), and the new (the distinctive urban law codes of places like Pisa, Florence, Venice, and Genoa.)

On balance, the great strengths of this encyclopedia outweigh any scholarly disagreements about what is included and what is not. A work designed to be consulted rather than read from cover to cover, it provides the curious explorer, following the entries on various poets, cities, or legal systems, some of the best and up-to-date analysis in the field of medieval Italy. Such a collaborative work, drawing from so many scholars with diverse training and in-

terests, is by its very nature interdisciplinary and a good corrective to the occasional one-dimensional character of certain entries. The best articles give experts a chance to put aside scholarly quibbles and explain to a general audience comprised mainly of secondary and college students what is important about their work. At a time when ordinary research in history, literature, the arts, and other areas becomes increasingly arcane and, in some cases, theory-ridden, the clarity of a reference work like this one is refreshing.